PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Takeshi KAMIMURA

Appln. No. 09/244,419   Group Art Unit: 2722

Confirmation No.: Unknown   Examiner: Unknown

Filed: February 4, 1999

For: IMAGE WORKFLOW SYSTEM

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby

notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached

Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability

of the claims of the above-identified application.

1. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 9-81488, published March

    28, 1997.

2. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 59-196647, published

    November 8, 1984.

3. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 8-147274, published June

    7, 1996.

4. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 9-305659, published November 28, 1997.

5. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 8-147379, published June 7, 1996.

6. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 9-305668, published November 28, 1997.

7. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 9-251432, published September 22, 1997.

8. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 9-146932, published June 6, 1997.

9. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 9-198385, published July 31, 1997.

10. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 9-191319, published July 22, 1997.

11. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 9-91402, published April 4, 1997.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date for an application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA) under §1.53(d); (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a

Takeshi KAMIMURA
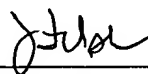09/244,419
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under

37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for

foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Japanese Office Action

dated April 3, 2001, and an English translation of the pertinent portions thereof, which cites such

documents and indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such

document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not

waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any

listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 19, 2001

Claims: 1-3, 5, 6 Cited Literature: 1, 2

Comments: As described in Cited Literature 2, the following were common knowledge prior to submission of the subject application: in a work flow system, a system configuration which automatically executes transmission, with work processing documents attached to data, and work processing at the location to which [information] is transmitted, referring to a table which stores [information] corresponding to the location [or party] to whom data is transmitted and the types of work processing.

It is recognized that anyone skilled in the art could readily arrive at the idea of applying the above-mentioned, commonly known technique to a work flow system of the type described in Cited Literature 1, which has images as the transmitted data.

Further, the method of identifying the type of image, as described in Claim 2, is common knowledge.

Also, the concept of adding a means to start a program for work processing, as described in Claim 3, is nothing more than a design step which anyone skilled in the art could do at will.

Claim: 4 Cited Literature 1-4

Comment:

As described in Cited Literature 3 and 4, in a work flow system, the concept of judging the processing capacity of the location (party) to which [information] is to be transmitted (receiving location) and changing the receiving location has been common knowledge before the present application was submitted.

We cannot acknowledge that the point of adopting the utilization rate of the receiving location as the material for judging the processing capacity of the receiving location has special novelty worthy of an invention.

List of Cited Literature

1. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H9–81488
2. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. S59–196647
3. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H8–147274
4. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H9–305659

Record of Results of Prior Art Literature Survey

Fields surveyed: IPC 7th Edition G06F19/00, 300, G06F17/60

Prior Art Literature:

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H08–147379

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H09–305668

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H09–251432

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H09–146932

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H09–198385

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H09–191319

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H09–91402

This record of the Results of the Prior Art Literature Survey does not constitute a reason for rejection.